



## City of Gaithersburg Press Release

**Contact:** Public Information Director  
City of Gaithersburg  
301-258-6310  
[cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov](mailto:cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov)

### For Immediate Release

## Energy Efficiency, Enhanced Safety Expected from New Street Lights in Olde Towne

**Gaithersburg, MD (January 6, 2020)** The first of many planned relamping projects has been completed in the City of Gaithersburg. The luminaires in the 27 colonial light poles on South Summit Avenue between Route 355 and Wells Avenue have been converted to Light Emitting Diode (LED) luminaires. Unlike the High Intensity Discharge (HID) bulbs that they are replacing, LED output is almost entirely light, while HID output is both light and heat.

“Gaithersburg prides itself on being a green city, and the eventual shift of all street lighting to LED is an important part of our strategy,” says Michael Johnson, Director of the City’s Department of Public Works. “LEDs help us decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and they use less energy, thus reducing the City’s demand from power plants.”

“In addition to the environmental advantages, the new LEDs allow the light to spread more evenly, which improves the overall light levels,” says Johnson. “South Summit Avenue sees a lot of pedestrians, from those living, working and shopping in the Olde Towne district to students walking to and from Gaithersburg High School. The enhanced light levels should help improve pedestrian safety. ”

The switch is also anticipated to save the City money over time, as the life of an LED is anticipated at 100,000 hours, while the HID life is approximately 25,000. The longer life will reduce both luminaire purchase and time spent on replacement.

Within the City there are approximately 3,825 City-owned streetlights, and 770 Pepco-owned streetlights. A Request For Proposals (RFP) for a citywide LED conversion is under development. Relamping priorities and a timeline will be developed based on the results of the RFP.

For more information on the City’s environmental initiatives, visit [gaithersburgmd.gov](http://gaithersburgmd.gov).

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